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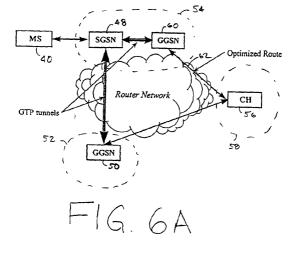
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#### (54) Methods and apparatus for route optimisation in a communications system

(57) A route optimization technique in a GPRS network includes establishing a gateway GPRS support node in a visiting public land mobile network in which a roaming mobile station is currently located. Specifically, a tunnel is formed between the gateway GPRS support node and a serving GPRS support node to which the mobile station is in direct communication over a radio link. In this manner, external corresponding hosts may route packets to the gateway GPRS support node, rath-

er than the GPRS support node in the mobile station's home public mobile network, as is done in conventional GPRS networks. Advantageously, a shorter path is established for transfer of packets between a mobile station and a corresponding host. A similar route optimization technique is provided in a CDPD network, wherein a home mobile data-intermediate system node (local HMD-IS) in the foreign (visiting) network serves as a gateway node to the roaming mobile-end system.





# **EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT**

Application Number

EP 99 30 9583

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#### ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT ON EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION NO.

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